

STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN GRASSES: 3*

B.K. Simon

Queensland Herbarium, Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068

Summary

Aristida dominii sp. nov. from northern Australia is diagnosed. *A. browniana* Henrard and its synonyms are placed in synonymy under *A. holathera* Domin and *A. holathera* var. *latifolia* is a new combination.

Soon after the submission of my paper describing new taxa of *Aristida* in Australia (Simon 1984) it became apparent that another new species from northern Australia needed circumscription. An examination of the type of *A. hirta* Domin revealed it to be a specimen of *A. superpendens* Domin with immature lemmas and that most of the material placed under the name *A. hirta* in Australian herbaria was an annual species taxonomically distinct from the perennial *A. superpendens*. A new name is thus required for this species. The distinctness of the type of *A. hirta*, when compared with the rest of the material placed under this name, was referred to by Lazarides (1980) but he made no taxonomic changes then.

Aristida dominii B. Simon sp. nov. affinis *A. superpendenti* Domin sed annua, culmo brevior, lemmate brevior (ad 7.5 mm longum), laminis setaceis, brevioribus pilis ligulae differt. **Typus:** J.R. Clarkson 4801 (holotypus BRI; isotypi AD, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH, QRS). **Fig. 1.**

Western Australia. FITZGERALD DISTRICT: Karunjie Station, Mar 1950, *Rust* 95 (CANB). **Northern Territory.** DARWIN AND GULF: El Sharana, Feb 1973, *Lazarides* 7829 (BRI, CANB, NSW, PERTH); Katherine Experiment Station, Feb 1947, *Wyn* 97 (CANB); Cox River Station, Jul 1977, *Latz* 7262 (BRI, CANB, DNA, NT). **Queensland.** COOK DISTRICT: 37 km SSE of Aurukun, May 1982, *Clarkson* 4384 (BRI); Koyanyama, Feb 1978, *Alpha* 524 (BRI); 7 km N of North Kennedy R., Apr 1983, *Clarkson* 4801 (AD, BRI, CANB, DNA, K, MEL, MO, NSW, PERTH, QRS); Cairns, Jul 1938, *Flecker* 5006 (QRS); Chillagoe, Apr 1938, *Blake* 13628 (BRI, CANB, K, NSW); Gilbert R., Feb 1925, *Brass* 431 (BRI, CANB), Mar 1927, *Brass* 1707 (BRI); Forest Home Station, Mar 1931, *Brass* 1849 (BRI, CANB). BURKE DISTRICT: Normanton, May 1935, *Blake* 8961 (AD, BRI, CANB, K, MO, NSW, NT, PERTH, PRE), Mar 1954, *Lazarides* 4303 (AD, BRI, CANB, MEL, NSW, NT, PERTH); 5 km W of Plains Creek Station, Apr 1974, *Jacobs* 1350 (NSW); Croydon, May 1935, *Blake* 9111 (BRI, CANB, K, MEL, NT), Aug 1936, *Blake* 12458 (BRI, CANB, NSW, PERTH, QRS).

A full description of the species was given by Lazarides (1980) under *A. hirta*. Characters of *A. dominii* which distinguish it taxonomically from *A. superpendens* are the slender annual culms which are generally shorter, the setaceous leaf blades, the shorter lemma and a ligule with much shorter hairs. In my key to *Aristida* in Australia (Simon 1984) *A. dominii* should be substituted for *A. hirta* in the first couplet of dichotomy 8.

During a recent examination of the morphological attributes of Australian *Aristida* species it was discovered that the material to which the name *A. holathera* Domin has been applied was not distinct from *A. browniana* Henrard. In my opinion the latter species has a broad curly-leaved variety and the narrow-leaved type variety, itself very variable, within which *A. holathera* can easily be accommodated. The other differences reported in the literature (indistinct vs. distinct lemma articulation, 3-nerved vs. 1-nerved lower glume and unequal vs. equal lemma awns) do not hold on closer scrutiny. As *A. holathera* is the earlier name, however, it has to be taken up, resulting in the following nomenclatural changes.

*Continued from Austrobaileya 2: 238 (1986).

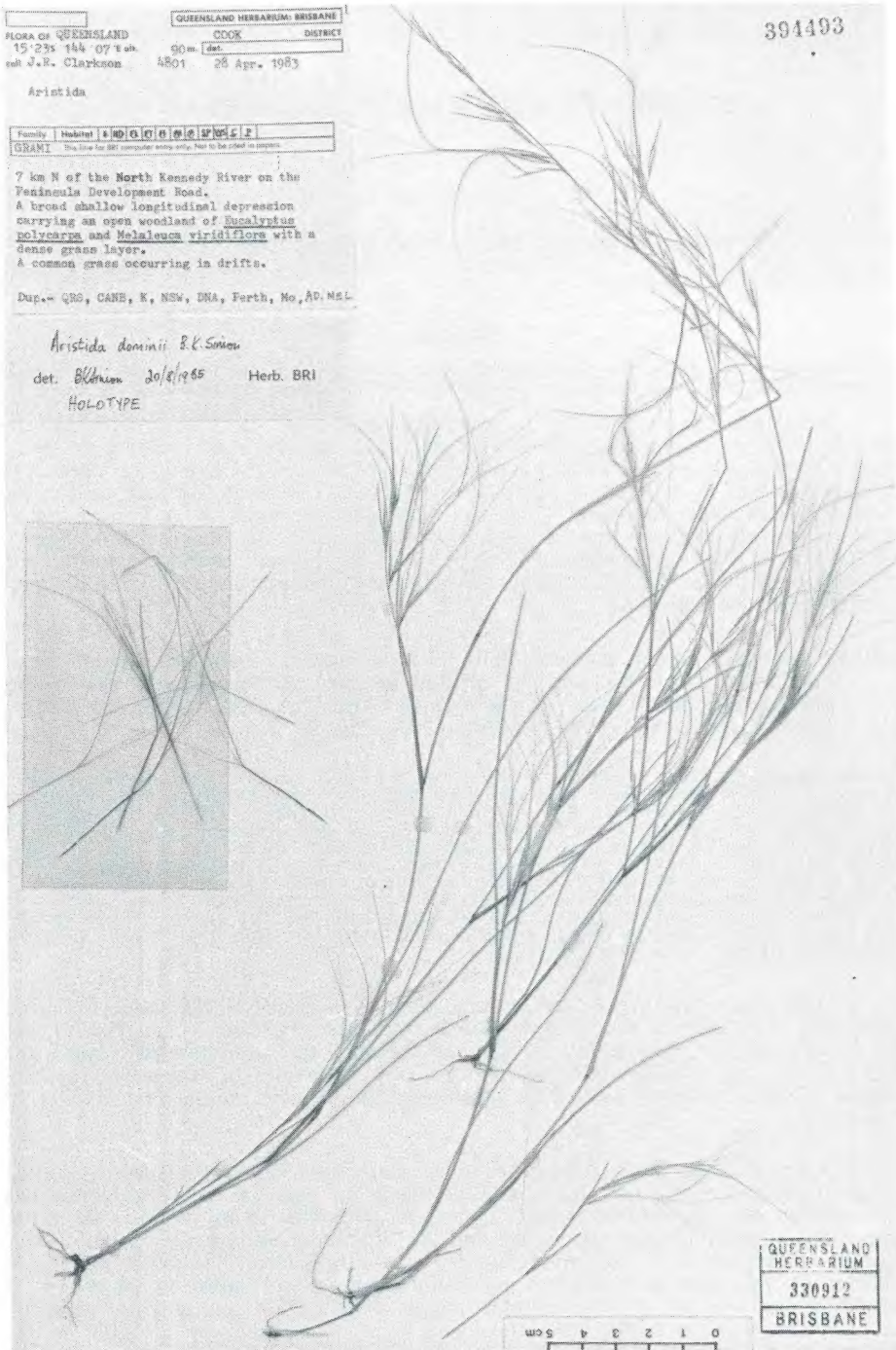


Fig. 1. Holotype of *Aristida dominii*.

Aristida holathera Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 85:340 (1915). **Type:** near Chillagoe, Feb 1910, K. Domin, (holotype L (Herb. Lugd. Bat. 953 346 286 and 926 361 524); isotype BRI (BRI 061558)).

A. stipoides R.Br., *Prodr.* 174 (1810), non Lamark (1791). *A. stipoides* var. *normalis* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 85: 337 (1915). *A. browniana* Henrard, *Meded. Rijks Herb.* 54: 63 (1926), **synon. nov.** **Type:** R. Brown [6197] (lectotype BM (selected here), specimen annotated by Robert Brown—*Aristida stipoides*, Carpentaria Island Nov 22, 1802).

A. stipoides var. *brachyathera* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 85: 337 (1915). **Type:** K. Domin (syntypes from Cloncurry and Pentland, *n.v.*).

A. muelleri Henrard, *Meded. Rijks Herb.* 54A: 358 (1927). **Type:** D. Molineux 8 (holotype L (Herb. Lugd. Bat. 926, 361–526) fragment BRI; isotypes, MEL (MEL 582062 and MEL 582063) fragment BRI.

Aristida holathera Domin var. ***latifolia*** (B. Simon)B. Simon, **comb. nov.**

Aristida browniana Henrard var. *latifolia* B. Simon, *Austrobaileya* 2: 95 (1984), **synon. nov.** **Type:** P.K. Latz 2811 (holotype BRI; isotypes CANB, DNA, NT).

As a result of these nomenclatural changes my key to *Aristida* in Australia (Simon 1984) should be amended to exclude couplet 9 and the names *A. holathera* var. *holathera* and *A. holathera* var. *latifolia* should be substituted for *A. browniana* var. *browniana* and *A. browniana* var. *latifolia* respectively in couplet 12.

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References

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